

tricity Board (NREB) has stopped the supply of electricity being provided by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken to settle the dispute and when it is likely to be sorted out;

(c) the total amount outstanding against the Bihar State Electricity Board and the procedure and conditions regarding the payment of this amount;

(d) whether necessary instructions for restoration of electricity supply to the Bihar State have been issued; and

(e) if so, results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e). Bihar is not a Constituent of the Northern Region. In spite of this due to serious power shortage conditions in Bihar, assistance to the extent of about 100 to 150 MW is being provided to the State from the Northern Region depending upon the availability of power in the Northern Region. However, due to continuous default by Bihar in making payments to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for the purchase of energy from the Northern Region, the power supply to Bihar from the Northern Region was discontinued by the Northern Regional Load Despatch Centre (NRLDC) from 0605 hrs. on 26th October, 1991 but was restored from the 0905 hrs. onwards on the same day on assurance by Bihar Government regarding payment of arrears towards cost of power supplied.

The total amount of outstanding dues payable by Bihar State Electricity Board to the various Central Power Corporations, is about Rs. 592.47 crores.

The Government of Bihar has finalised an Action Plan for making payments to the

Central Generating Companies for the power purchased by the Bihar State Electricity Board.

[English]

Transmission Losses of Electricity

*354. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Energy Projects in India-WB aid must focus on efficiency report" appearing in the 'Times of India' of November 11, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the percentage of transmission losses is very high; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb the transmission losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The news-item captioned "Energy projects in India - WB aid must focus on efficiency: Report" appeared in the Times of India of November 22, 1991.

(b) The Government is in agreement with the main thrust of the news-item and has itself accorded high priority to energy conservation in its power programme.

(c) and (d). The transmission and distribution (T&D) losses including theft of electricity in the country have been ranging between 21% to 23%. In order to reduce the T&D losses, various measures have been taken. These include:

- (i) Conducting energy audit by State Electricity Boards (SEB)/ Electricity Departments (ED) to identify system elements responsible for excessive losses;
- (ii) Formulation of system improvement schemes for strengthening T&D system both in rural and urban areas;
- (iii) Installation of capacitors, introduction of energy audit in the power systems of SEBs/EDs;
- (iv) Theft of energy has been made a cognizable offence; and
- (v) Introduction of an incentive scheme for reducing T&D losses.

S.T.D. and Direct Dialling Facilities in Telephone Exchanges of Trivandrum

*355. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the telephone exchanges in Trivandrum without S.T. D. facility; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to provide S.T.D. facility in those exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) None Sir. All the 5 exchanges in Trivandrum i.e. Trivandrum X-Bar, Trivandrum-Kaithamukku, Trivandrum Medical College, Trivandrum-Ambalamukku RLU & Karyavattom RLU are having the S.T.D. facility.

(b) Question does not arise.

Kota Thermal Power Station in Rajasthan

*356. SHRIMATIVASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the generation of power at the Kota Thermal Power Station in Rajasthan is less than its capacity;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). The generation capacity of Kota Thermal Power Station in Rajasthan is 640 MW. During the period April-November, 1991, against the programme of generation of 1620 million units of energy, at 43.2% Plant Load Factor (PLF), the actual generation was 2223 million units at 59.3% PLF.

(c) Various measures being taken to further improve the performance of Kota Thermal Power Station include renovation and modernisation of old units, assistance to the Rajasthan Electricity Board in undertaking plant betterment programmes, supply of requisite quantity and quality of coal, training of operation and maintenance personnel and strengthening of Transmission and Distribution Systems.

[Translation]

Power Generation Capacity

*357. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state: